

Emma for National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain

Emma Barnett, a 13-year-old clarinet pupil at NESMS, has been chosen to join the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain's Main Orchestra – the most advanced of the NCO-GB's five age-banded orchestras.

Main Orchestra comprises 116 players up to the age of 13 drawn from all over the United Kingdom. "However, there are only six clarinetists and the competition for places was extremely intense," says Roger Clarkson, the NCO-GB's director of music. "So for Emma to win a place means she has considerable talent."

Among the NCO-GB's former members are some of the world's finest musicians, including two winners of the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition – Guy Johnston (2000) and Nicola Benedetti (2004), as well as the principal conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra – 28 year-old Robin Ticciati, and international conductor, Daniel Harding.

Not that orchestral playing will be new for Emma. She already plays with the Aberdeen City Schools Training Orchestra and was a member of the National Children's Orchestra of Scotland



"It's going to be a busy year!"

(NCOS) at the age of 11, as well as playing in her school (St. Margaret's School for Girls in Aberdeen) wind ensemble, concert band and orchestra.

"Emma has built on her experience with NCOS," suggests Lorna Gurney, the woodwind

teacher at St. Margaret's. "Mixing with so many other talented players had a tremendous impact on her playing and I have no doubt that playing in NCO-GB will also lift her playing to a new level."

Emma's tutor at NESMS, Alison Waller, says: "Being selected for

this orchestra is recognition of the high standard Emma sets herself and the time and hard work she devotes to her clarinet. I'm delighted for her and I know she will enjoy meeting young players from around the UK."

Emma started playing the piano at six years of age and the clarinet at seven and has been a NESMS student for the past four years. "I found I enjoyed playing the instrument right from the start," Emma says. Despite what most

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David Nicholson remembered

David Nicholson was truly a remarkable man, writes Roger Williams.

As a flautist he was supreme, with a wonderful technique entirely at the service of the music. He had fastidious musical taste and was blessed with a great gift of communication. With a ready willingness to think 'out of the box', he was a founder member of that great ensemble, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, where he led their internationally renowned woodwind section.

He was also a wonderfully inspiring teacher, encouraging his pupils to be themselves with the same unstinting effort that characterised his own life.

He had an incredibly retentive memory which served him and his pupils well. He had a fondness for Aberdeen and for his devotion to NESMS and its flute students we shall always hold David in great esteem.

Though we may not hear him again in the concert hall, the dual legacy of his many brilliant pupils and the fine recordings with the SCO will live long in the memory. A more generous musician and a warmer hearted person would be impossible to find. Thank you David for everything you shared with us.

The North East of Scotland Music School is sponsored by:

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About the School

Providing the highest standards of advanced tuition for promising musicians

The School provides a centre where young people of outstanding musical promise can obtain tuition which is not available within their existing framework of study. Any musically talented child, student, teacher or lay person living in Scotland may apply for an audition to the School.

TUITION

Internationally acclaimed professors and teachers are brought to Aberdeen on a regular basis from all over the British Isles.

COURSES

The School offers one-to-one teaching together with occasional workshops and masterclasses. There is a close relationship with the University of Aberdeen, through the Director of Music, and also with Aberdeen City Music School in Dyce.

FINANCE

Finance is generously provided by trusts, commercial organisations and individuals. Continued support is essential in order to maintain the high quality of the teaching programme. The Administrator will be pleased to assist with all enquiries about donations, sponsorship or scholarships.

FEES & SCHOLARSHIPS

Students pay their own fees, although scholarships are available and are applied for annually. Any award is made on a balance of musical potential and financial need.

DOROTHY HATELY

Dorothy founded NESMS in 1975 with the support and encouragement of Lady Aberdeen. Thanks to Dorothy's dogged determination over the years, the School has greatly increased its teaching disciplines, tutors and pupils. Sadly, Dorothy died in 1996, before she could see the School in its own premises in Huntly Street. However, we strive to maintain the high standards she set and intend to take the School from strength to strength.

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND MUSIC SCHOOL

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TUTOR PROFILE – DONALD HAWKSWORTH

Happy Feet

It's entirely possible that Donald Hawksworth, NESMS organ tutor and founder member of the school's music committee, has never seen the 2006 animated movie *Happy Feet* about the penguin who, in a society where singing is all, couldn't sing but could dance.

But the term 'happy feet' seems entirely appropriate for a man who, as a Royal College of Music piano student, trained in organ playing with the distinguished London organist, Dr. Harold Darke, and then gravitated to Brechin and Aberdeen from where, over the years, he staged a successful hill walking attack on all the 3,000 foot mountains in the British Isles.

Born and brought up in Sheffield, Donald had early exposure to the hills in the nearby Peak District but it was music that took him to London for his training and thence to Brechin High School as a music teacher.

"I spotted the job advertisement on the Royal College notice board," recalls Donald, "although, if I'm honest, I didn't really have a clue where Brechin actually was! But I applied and was appointed and it proved to be a very happy few years for me."

Perhaps inevitably though, Donald was sucked into what he describes as: "The musical vortex of Aberdeen," when he joined the music staff at Aberdeen Grammar School, eventually becoming head of music and then, later, music advisor for Grampian Region. Taking early retirement in 1983, he became an examiner for the Associated Board, working not just in the United Kingdom but in Asia, in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

"I examined in all the grades and just about every instrument with the exception of the bagpipes!" he remembers. "I was doing that until 2005 and over the years heard more scales than I care to remember. But having to listen to them in interesting places was enjoyable and, of course, as an examiner it was important that the person you were examining didn't

continued from page 1 people would agree is the sort of talent that might lead her to a career as a professional musician, she has no plans to do so. "I think having to do it for a living might get boring and take away some of the enjoyment," she suggests. "Although at the moment I don't have a clear idea of exactly what I would like to do for a living!"

Emma joined forces with fellow school pupils – her sister, Frances, Laura Blackwood and fellow clarinetist and NESMS student, Katie Lowe – to play at the Aberdeen Festival. The adjudicator, acclaimed music educationist, Paul Harris, was so impressed with the quartet's playing he has written a piece of music for them, the world premier of which



realise their particular set of scales was the 150th you'd heard that week!"

Donald's first association with NESMS was when he was the Grampian Region music advisor. "I had a number of conversations with Dorothy Hately and June, Lady Aberdeen and supported them in starting the school. I'm delighted that their idea took off and that the school is now so strong"

It was only a couple of years ago that Donald became an official tutor when he and Dr. Roger Williams organised an organ workshop led by Professor George McPhee, the organist at Paisley Abbey, and as a consequence of the interest shown, started giving lessons.

"My experience is that youngsters are attracted to the instrument partly by the mechanics of it and partly by its sheer grandeur," suggests Donald. "But for many of them access is a problem although I think that most church ministers and/or organists would be only too happy to open their doors to budding organists if they were but asked."

Donald gives his lessons at Craigiebuckler Church and takes particular pleasure in initiating pianists into the techniques of organ playing, whilst Roger deals with the more advanced students. "All people need is to be reasonably competent on the piano. Roger and I can then add the (happy) feet!"



was in the St. Margaret's Spring Concert on 25 March.

Following that, Emma will be away for nine days in April at the first of the NCO-GB residential courses in Dorset (including a concert in Bristol), nine days in Sedburgh in August (with a concert at The Sage Gateshead) and a last two days in London in December, with a final concert at Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall. And there's 11 days with the National Children's Orchestra of Scotland's in April and July and six days in Vienna with the St. Margaret's music department.

"It's going to be a busy year!" Emma reckons.

New memorial scholarship

A new annual scholarship in memory of the late David Nicholson has been set up with sponsorship from the Skene Group. The first recipient of the scholarship is Kay Ritchie.



David Nicholson was one of the longest serving tutors at NESMS, joining at the behest of June, Lady Aberdeen and/or Dorothy Hatley (he claims he couldn't remember which!) shortly after the school was founded.

He was born and educated in Newcastle-upon-Tyne but, after studying flute at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama under the guidance of Geoffrey Gilbert, made his musical and private life in Scotland.

As a founder member and – for the first 26 years of its existence – principal flautist of the renowned Scottish Chamber Orchestra, he helped forge the orchestra's not inconsiderable international reputation and participated in almost every one of the band's 130 recordings.

David was a frequent soloist with the orchestra, playing Bach, Vivaldi, Stamitz, Mozart and Nielsen, as well as partnering Jean-Pierre Rampal, Aurele Nicolet and his friend Sir James

Galway in double concertos.

But it was teaching as well as performing that David enjoyed. He was a music professor at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama for over 40 years over and above his visits to NESMS.

"David loved coming to Aberdeen," recalls his wife, Jo Nicholson. "It somehow embodied the essence of his desire to ensure that music should be spread widely and not ensnared in conservatoires!"

As one of David's former students, Kay says: "I am delighted and extremely honoured to be the first recipient of the David Nicholson Scholarship. David was, and always will be, a key figure in my musical life. He was my teacher and mentor as I grew up, as I began my tuition with him when I was 11 years old.

"David was influential in many ways, not just musically – he introduced me to all of my key repertoire, as well as to music courses and people whom I would

otherwise never have met. (I met up with my oldest musical friend at David's funeral, and he and I commented that we would never have met if it weren't for David encouraging each of us separately to go to a week-long flute course run by some of his former students)."

Kay continues: "All of David's students benefited not just from a world-class musician with the patience of a saint, but from an approachable man who was always happy to listen. I am really quite moved to be the first recipient of the scholarship that bears the name of this widely-loved, sorely-missed, truly excellent musician."

Although long-time supporters of NESMS, The Skene Group were keen to fund the David Nicholson Scholarship. Ian McArthur, the Group's finance director, says: "David was clearly an inspiration to all his students, both here and elsewhere and it was an easy decision to make to support the scholarship when we were asked."

Tutors at the School

as at April 2011

STRINGS

Violin	Gillian Findlay
Viola	Michael Beeston
Cello	James Halsey
Double Bass	David Inglis

WOODWIND

Flute	Catherine O'Rourke
Oboe	Joe Houghton
Clarinet	Alison Waller
Bassoon	Lesley Wilson
Recorder	Ian Wilson

BRASS

Trumpet	John Gracie
Horn	Lizzie Davis

PIANO

Nigel Clayton	Joseph Long
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SCOTTISH FIDDLE

Paul Anderson

SINGING

Raimund Herinx	Alan Watt
Ruth Black	Alison McDonald
	Jean Webster

STAGECRAFT & PERFORMANCE

Donald Maxwell

ORGAN

Dr Roger B. Williams
Donald Hawksworth

Forthcoming events

MUSIC IN THE SANCTUARY: CULTS PARISH CHURCH

Cults Parish Church has established a successful series of monthly recitals. There is no admission charge but donations are split between three charities.

Concerts start at 7pm and the next date is: Saturday 16th April: Moira Docherty, Soprano, and Harry Williamson, Piano

FRIENDS OF NESMS SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT: CRAIGIEBUCKLER CHURCH

Come and hear the best and brightest of NESMS students on **Friday 3rd June at 7.30pm**. Scholarship winners Richard Bailey, piano, Kay Ritchie, flute, Emma Barnett, clarinet and Megan Campbell, soprano will perform. Tickets are £5, available at the door on the night, and include refreshments.

DEREK BUCHAN PIANO RECITALS

Derek will play on **Saturday 11th June at St. Paul's Cathedral, Dundee at 1pm**. The programme will include the Schubert Sonata in B flat D960. Keep an eye out for details of a recital in St. Machars at the end of May.

MUSICAL QUIZ NIGHT WITH SUPPER: WEDNESDAY 22ND JUNE

Want to test your musical knowledge? Then come along to **Rubislaw Church Centre at 7.30pm**. All enquiries to NESMS office.

ABERDEEN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

We hope to take part in three of the Up Close and Musical series in the Youth Festival this year. Please check your Festival programmes and come along if you can.

New piano

Lynx-eyed readers who visit NESMS – especially if they are piano players – will have noticed that the upright practise piano in the school’s basement has changed.



Gordon Bell

The replacement is a Chappell and came to NESMS as a donation via Gordon Bell, who tunes the school pianos.

“I was contacted by George Cushnie who was left the piano by his aunt and uncle, who lived in Wick,” says George. “I suggested to George that NESMS might be a suitable recipient and luckily he agreed.” In fact, George had said in an e-mail to Gordon: “I’d like to see the piano being used by talented people and the link to children or young adults would be very appropriate, as both my uncle and aunt were really good with children and their development, but, sadly, never had any of their own.”

The Chappell is about 30 years old and is, says Gordon, an excellent make. “Originally they were in Bond Street, London but were taken over by Yamaha.”

Gordon arranged for the piano to be shipped down from Wick to his Aberdeen shop where it was thoroughly checked before being installed at NESMS. “It’s in excellent condition,” reports Gordon, “and will be a useful workhorse for the school. It’s a big improvement on the piano it replaced!”

Keynotes Auction Lunch

The Marcliffe Hotel and Spa was the venue for last year’s lunch and over 100 supporters and friends enjoyed an excellent meal.

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“The event was expertly hosted by our good friend Peter Mitchell, with the recently formed NESMS Cello Quartet providing a superbly executed and most enjoyable musical selection,” reports Auction Lunch organising committee chairman, John Ritchie. “The four young folk ably demonstrated their musical talents to the delight of the entire room.

“Peter’s ‘persuasive powers’ were put to good use for the auction and, as ever, the raffle proved popular.”

John continues by saying that in excess of £4,000 was raised on the day. “While this was less than in some previous years, it nevertheless reflects the ongoing generosity of those attending and the many individuals and organisations who donated to the day. Sincere thanks are due to all supporters. The funds raised will certainly cover the production and distribution costs of *Keynotes* for the coming year.”

The date of this year’s lunch is Sunday, 6 November.

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